

Calendar No. 164

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 918

[Report No. 116-66]

To prohibit the President or a Federal agency from constructing, operating, or offering wholesale or retail services on broadband networks without authorization from Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27, 2019

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

JULY 25, 2019

Reported by Mr. WICKER, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To prohibit the President or a Federal agency from constructing, operating, or offering wholesale or retail services on broadband networks without authorization from Congress, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Eliminate From Regu-
3 lators Opportunities to Nationalize The Internet in Every
4 Respect Act” or the “E-FRONTIER Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OR A FED-**

6 **ERAL AGENCY CONSTRUCTING, OPERATING,**
7 **OR OFFERING SERVICES ON BROADBAND**
8 **NETWORKS.**

9 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

10 (1) the term “agency” has the meaning given
11 the term in section 902 of title 5, United States
12 Code;

13 (2) the term “broadband network”—

14 (A) means a communications network, the
15 primary purpose of which is to provide con-
16 sumers with the capability to transmit data to
17 and receive data from all or substantially all
18 internet endpoints; and

19 (B) includes a next-generation mobile
20 broadband network;

21 (3) the term “nationwide public safety
22 broadband network” has the meaning given the term
23 in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and
24 Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401); and

25 (4) the term “President” means the President
26 of the United States.

1 (b) PROHIBITION.—Neither the President nor an
2 agency may construct, operate, or offer wholesale or retail
3 service on a broadband network unless a duly enacted Act
4 of Congress signed into law by the President provides the
5 President or the agency, as applicable, with that authority.

6 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
7 tion may be construed to—

8 (1) limit, restrict, or circumvent in any way—
9 (A) the implementation of the nationwide
10 public safety broadband network; or
11 (B) any rules implementing the nationwide
12 public safety broadband network under title VI
13 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Cre-
14 ation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.);

15 (2) affect the authority of the President under
16 section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
17 U.S.C. 606); *or*

18 (3) prevent—
19 (A) an agency from providing another
20 agency with access to a broadband network; or
21 (B) a private entity from obtaining access
22 to a broadband network at a facility that is
23 owned or operated by the Federal Government
24 if that entity is under a contract to provide
25 services at that facility; *or*

4 SEC. 3. REPORT ON VULNERABILITIES OF UNITED STATES

5 BROADBAND NETWORKS.

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

11 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of
12 the Senate;

13 (C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of
14 the Senate;

15 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
16 merce of the House of Representatives;

17 (E) the Committee on Armed Services of
18 the House of Representatives; and

19 (F) the Permanent Select Committee on
20 Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

21 and

22 (2) the term “broadband network” has the
23 meaning given the term in section 2(a).

24 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
25 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the

1 United States shall conduct a study and submit to the ap-
2 propriate committees of Congress a report, which shall in-
3 clude—

4 (1) a discussion and analysis of—

5 (A) potential threats facing broadband net-
6 works in the United States from—

7 (i) the Government of the People's
8 Republic of China;

9 (ii) the Government of Iran;

10 (iii) the Government of the Russian
11 Federation; and

12 (iv) any other potential foreign adver-
13 sary of the United States; and

14 (B) the risks associated with using foreign
15 equipment and services in broadband networks
16 in the United States; and

17 (2) recommendations, if any, regarding how
18 service providers with respect to broadband networks
19 in the United States can reduce the vulnerabilities of
20 those networks to foreign threats.

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